(b) if so, what are the details of the assessment made; and

(c) what measures have been taken to stop exploitation of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1979, a Committee on Child Labour was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy to look into the causes leading to and the problems arising out of employment of children. The Committee submitted its report in the same year.

(b) The Committee made 23 recommendations to improve the conditions of child labour. These recommendations relate to, among other things, enhancement of penalty for violation of labour laws relating to children, setting up of Advisory Boards on Child Labour, strengthening of enforcement machinery, providing education health, recreation and other facilities etc.

(c) Government is implementing the following scheme/projects to humanize and gradually eliminate child labour:—

(i) Grants-in-aid are given to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects to benefit child labour.

(ii) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to phohibit and regulate child labour in certain employments has come into force from 23rd December. 1986.

(iii) Pilot projects have been formulated under the National Child Labour Programme for the benefit of children employed in certain employments. A project for the benefit of children working in the match and firework industry in and around Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu has already been taken up. Another pilot project to benefit children working in the carpet industry in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh is to be started shortly.

(iv) A National Child Labour Policy to give certain welfare benefits to child workers is under formulation by the Government.

1121. [*Transferred to the 13th August,* 1987].

Sikhs seeking shelter in Canada

1122. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large group of Sikhs recently tried to seek shelter in Canada as refugees;

(b) if so, what is Government's information about Sikh refugees; and

(c) whether the Canadian Government had permitted them to stay as refugees, if so, what arethe details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A group of 174 persons landed on the shore of Nova Scotia, Canada, on 12 July, 1987. 160 of them claimed to be Indians. Most of them are Sikhs. Their correct identities are being established.

(c) None of the 174 persons has yet been granted refugee status by the Canadian Government. Presently, their release from the army camp where they were detained is being processed. The Canadian authorities have decided to release 166 persons from detention on production of cost and performance bonds, the value of which varies from Canadian $ 3000 to $ 7000. The eligibility of the released persons for being granted refugee status in Canada will be decided according to Canadian law.

1123. [*Transferred to the 12th August,* 1987].